



## *Water Ceremony*

Rev. Steven Epperson & our all-ages congregation

– September 10, 2017



# UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER



At the front of the church you will find unlit candles. You are welcome to light a candle in remembrance, in gratitude, in prayer, in celebration.

---

*The prelude helps to create a spirit for shared celebration and worship.  
Please refrain from conversing and please turn off your cell phones.*

---



## ***Warm Welcome!***

Please visit our Visitors' Table in the Sanctuary foyer and get a nametag. Drop by the Welcome Table in Hewett Centre after the service and stay for coffee or tea and friendly conversation. Learn about our church and our community. Look for people wearing yellow nametags, who are welcoming you today.

If you are a new family visiting with children or babies, we look forward to welcoming you in person. Free childcare is available for children 3 and under, and children 4 and over are invited to join in this week's program activities. Children are also welcome to stay for the church service if they prefer. If you feel that you need to slip out of the service with a crying baby, please feel free to rejoin the service at any time. The service can also be heard in the foyer and in Hewett Centre.

The seats in the rear of the church are ***reserved***:  
(when facing the front) *left side for parents with babies or small children in childcare*, and right side for persons in wheelchairs & strollers.  
The UCV campus is a non-smoking environment.

## **TODAY AT UCV**

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAM:** Children's Program: The Water Ceremony is inclusive of all ages within our Unitarian community. Children remain with their families today to participate in this Welcoming. Crayons, coloring sheets, and activity pages are available in the Foyer at the Greeter's table for any children who wish to occupy their hands during the service.

**MEDITATION:** Join us for the Sunday morning sitting meditation at 10 – 10:45 am. There is brief guidance at the beginning of each sit. In consideration of others, please try to come on time. Any inquiries can be sent to [victoriaoginski@gmail.com](mailto:victoriaoginski@gmail.com).

**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY BOOK GROUP:** 12:30 – 2 pm, Lindsey-Priestley Room - Errol McKinstry will present *15 Dogs* by Andre Alexis. Winner of the 2015 Giller prize, it's an allegorical novel set in Toronto about dogs gifted with human intelligence and language by Greek Gods Apollo and Hermes on a pub wager with surprising consequences. Universal themes to be discussed. All are welcome.

**SEPTEMBER ART EXHIBIT & ARTS COMMITTEE MEETING: A Retrospective** by Claire Babcock - Portraits from the Carnegie Community Centre in the Sanctuary and Fireside Room. Reception Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, 2 – 5 pm. There will also be an arts committee meeting at 12:30 pm in the Family Room. All are welcome!

**TODAY'S FORUM: *Medical Assistance in Dying*** – hosted by Jay Aubrey, staff council for BCCLA. 12:45 pm, Fireside Room. MAID (medical assistance in dying) became Canadian law over a year ago. Come find out about its background. Does it go too far? Or not far enough? Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee.

**LUNCH TODAY:** Deliciously prepared and served by the UCV Refugee Committee. Proceeds from today's lunch help us to bring refugee families to Canada and assist refugee families who are already here.

**THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORT TEAM TODAY:**

**COFFEE SET UP AND SERVERS**

Ann Foster, Amy Megumi Anderson

**FLOWERS**

Lorraine Calame

**LIBRARY AND LITERATURE STALL**

Kaelyn Elfert, Lindsay Udem

**SUNDAY RECEPTIONISTS**

Virginia Crabill

**SOUND**

Galen Elfert

**GREETERS**

Margo Elfert, Sakura Nandana, Setty Pendakur, Penny Pearson

**WELCOME AND INFORMATION TABLE**

Wendy Bryan, Naomi Taylor



**Next Sunday Service: September 17, 2017**

*Living Our Vision Now*

Rev. Steven Epperson



**Reading from the Book of  
Celebrations and Concerns**

Julia Myers

**Offering:** *We deeply appreciate  
your presence here, your offerings  
and the gifts you share.*

*Song for the Mira\**

Alistair MacGillivray  
with Jane Slemon & Elliott Dainow

**Meditation – Spoken, then Silent**

Rev. Steven Epperson

**Anthem**

*The Road Home*

From “Southern Harmony 1835”  
Adapted by S. Paulus,  
Solo: Nicola Hamilton

***UCV’s Water Ceremony***

Rev. Steven Epperson and UCV Congregation

**Closing Hymn #1064**

*Blue Boat Home*

**Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice Flame**

Rev. Steven Epperson



**The Water Ceremony/Ingathering.** Our water ceremony, now celebrated at the beginning of September by hundreds of UU congregations around the world, first began in November 1980. It was created by Carolyn McDade and Lucile Schuck Longview to celebrate the “Women and Religion” continental convocation of Unitarian Universalist women in East Lansing, Michigan.

According to McDade and Longview, the ceremony entitled “Coming Home Like Rivers to the Sea” was “*Created by lay women, women who had long been silent in the pews. We gathered to worship in a way authentic and liberating to us, in a semicircle around a large common bowl. It was a ritual of women’s being connected to the universal symbol of water, a ritual of being connected to the totality of life... Making our way like rivers from places distant and near, we came together to give shape to a new spirituality that calls us to strength rather than just to support the strength of others; that calls us to action rather than to passivity; that calls us to full expression rather than to meek acceptance.*”

*“Celebrating now our connectedness, we choose water as our symbol of empowerment. As rivers in cycle release their waters and regain new beginnings, so do we cycle... These new beginnings are powerful, but not easy. But still we come to create and to celebrate and to live by the only spirituality worthy of devotion—a spirituality that uplifts, empowers and connects.”*



\* I have long loved this song - having sung it as a chorister many times and also having accompanied it many times, but this is the first time doing it without a choir! I have included the choral parts in the piano accompaniment as well as the oboe part. I am so pleased that Jane offered to do it with me, adding her beautiful harmonies. – Elliott

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS**

**UCV BOARD DEVELOPMENT: If any member in good standing is interested in being on the UCV Board, or would like to nominate someone, please contact the Nominating Committee at [diane@rubyslippers.ca](mailto:diane@rubyslippers.ca).**

**ANNUAL VANCOUVER ISLAND UNITARIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT** will be held at Bethlehem Retreat Centre in Nanaimo BC on the weekend of September 15 to 17, 2017. The cost for the weekend is \$265. The workshop is *Write Your Life* with Lois Peterson and Maggie de Vries. Registration form with more information is at <http://tinyurl.com/2017NWR>. For further information contact Theresa at [tmarion3@yahoo.com](mailto:tmarion3@yahoo.com) or [604-687-4864](tel:604-687-4864).

**THEATRE FOR LIVING PRACTICE – INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP:** With Rev. Meg Roberts. Saturday, Sept. 16, 10 am – 1 pm, Hitschmanova. We practice techniques in interactive, improvisational theatre. Wear comfortable clothes. RSVP Meg Roberts to confirm practice: 778-870-9015 or [mroberts@uuma.org](mailto:mroberts@uuma.org). Additional dates this Fall include Oct. 14, Nov. 11, & Dec. 16.

**EARTH-CENTERED SPIRITUAL GATHERINGS:** We are planning family-friendly earth-centred celebrations on the Sunday afternoon nearest the equinoxes, solstices and cross-quarter days. It will be: 2 – 3 pm ritual with song and dance; 3 – 4 pm nature-based activity; 4 – 5 pm potluck finger food. Come for just the ritual or stay for all three hours. The first one will be Sunday, September 17 to celebrate the autumn equinox. Mary Bennett [maryinvancouver@gmail.com](mailto:maryinvancouver@gmail.com)

**CHALICE CHOIR REUNION:** Sept. 21 @ 7:15, UCV Sanctuary: All former Chalice Choir members are invited to join the choir for singing, refreshments and a good visit. Former members may also join us in singing at the Sunday service, Sept. 24, but this is not required. Please let Donna Brown know by email if you would like to attend, at [quinnbrown44@gmail.com](mailto:quinnbrown44@gmail.com).

**WALK FOR RECONCILIATION:** The 2017 Walk for Reconciliation Vancouver takes place on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am, and UCV is a registered walking team initiated by Kiersten Moore. Our upper elementary students have the opportunity to participate in an 8-session Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation series beginning in October and this walk is our opening celebration. Please join us and show your own commitment to reconciliation, multi-faith connections, and to our children on this journey. You can find more information and our team at: [reconciliationcanada.ca](http://reconciliationcanada.ca). The 2k walk begins at 650 Cambie St. at 9:30 am and culminates at Strathcona Park.

*“Let us find a way to belong to this time and place together. Our future, and the well-being of all our children, rests with the kind of relationships we build today” – Chief Joseph*

**NEXT MOVEABLE FEAST:** 6 pm, Saturday, September 30 at New India Buffet's new location, 901 West Broadway (at Laurel), [www.newindiabuffet.com](http://www.newindiabuffet.com). To reserve a place at our table, contact Dianne Crosbie at [dcrosbie@uniserve.com](mailto:dcrosbie@uniserve.com) or by phone at 778-686-7987.

**SHARE YOUR STORY – A SERMON WRITING WORKSHOP:** Saturday, October 28, 2017, 1 – 6 pm in the Hewett Centre. Facilitated by Rev. Meg Roberts. To help integrate your learning, a follow-up 1 ½-hour group coaching session is included on either Tues. Nov. 28, 7 – 8:30 pm OR Sat. Nov. 25, 10:30 am – 12 noon. This will encourage you to work on your sermon, offer support for any roadblocks you hit, and provide feedback to polish your creation. To register, contact UCV Workshop Committee chair, Way Kent: [110395@telus.net](mailto:110395@telus.net). Earlybird registration deadline and cost: September 30 (\$35) Final registration deadline and cost: October 22 (\$50)

**LAY CHAPLAIN OPPORTUNITY:** UCV Lay Chaplains co-create and officiate at weddings, memorials, child blessings and other rites of passage ceremonies. It's a joyful, loving service to the greater community and a path to personal spiritual growth. For more details about the job's requirements and its blessings, contact Nan Gregory, [nangregory@shaw.ca](mailto:nangregory@shaw.ca), 604-228-1450, or Katherine Roback, [katherinekroback@gmail.com](mailto:katherinekroback@gmail.com), 604-872-0426.

**JOIN THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM:** We're gearing up for fall back-to-church and it would be a benefit to have a few more folk on the communications team to help committees and groups design brochures, update the website, write news posts and make posters for the bulletin boards. Meetings (usually only two a year) are optional. Visit <http://vancouverunitarians.ca/ucv/communications-team/> or contact [maryinvancouver@gmail.com](mailto:maryinvancouver@gmail.com).

**THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM** is in need of the following to set up our new Spirit Play classroom: **small, easily portable shelving** for story boxes and art supplies. The shelves need to be able to store in our storage room during the week and easily move into one of the preschool classrooms on Sunday morning. **A medium size area rug** to provide a warm story circle centre, the rug should be easy to roll and store during the week. If you can provide either of these items please contact Kiersten Moore, DRE at [dre@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto:dre@vancouverunitarians.ca) or 604-446-9359. Thank you!

## Sacred Circle Dance



**1st Tuesday and 2nd Monday 7pm**  
**Dance+Labyrinth+Art 3rd Th 11am**  
**Contact:** [circledanceucv@gmail.com](mailto:circledanceucv@gmail.com)

Artwork by Rev. Margaret Keip created in celebration of the life of dancer and photographer Edna Bullock. She and Ric Masten, composer of "Let It Be a Dance" were both members of the UU Church of the Monterey Peninsula

**Saturday, September 23, 2017 (from 5:30 pm)**

**JOIN THE FUN**  
*at the 4th annual*

**- tasty food**  
**- congenial company**  
**- excellent entertainment**

\$12 tickets (or by donation) on sale after service Sept. 10 & 17 in Hewett Hall (only 100 available)

\* Bring a salad or entré (appetizers & dessert provided)  
 Childcare available (please indicate if needed when you purchase tickets)



## **Our Vision**

*Because we envision a more compassionate world, we seek to deepen our spiritual and religious lives, grow and enrich our congregation, and advocate for love and justice.*

## **Living Our Vision**

*As Unitarians, we are dedicated to spiritual growth, social justice, and reverence for nature and all life. We embody these values through worship, ethical action, artistic expression, and religious education for all ages that aim to connect hearts, heads, and hands. Our congregation welcomes all ages, orientations, abilities, and identities in our joyous search for meaning.*

## **MINISTER AND STAFF**

**PARISH MINISTER**

Rev. Steven Epperson

**COMMUNITY MINISTER**

Rev. Laura Imayoshi

**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Kiersten Moore

**CHOIR DIRECTOR**

Donna Brown

**MUSIC ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER**

Elliott Dainow

**CASUAL CARETAKERS**

James Wilson, Mark Klassen, Ben Yeung

Paul Nash, Igor Santizo, Ken Godmere

**CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR**

Aurora Eyolfson

**OFFICE ASSISTANT/ ORDER OF SERVICE**

Marcus Hynes

**BOOKKEEPER**

Collene Harris

**LAY CHAPLAINS**

Nan Gregory, Louise Bunn

**Telephone:** 604-261-7204

**Email:** [info@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto:info@vancouverunitarians.ca)

**Online:** [www.vancouverunitarians.ca](http://www.vancouverunitarians.ca)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/vancouverunitarians.ca](https://facebook.com/vancouverunitarians.ca)

To subscribe to the email version of the *UCV Events & Order of Service* write:  
[ucvevents@gmail.com](mailto:ucvevents@gmail.com) Please include your name.